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10/615,643	07/07/2003	Tamra L. Thomason	200209506-1	1208

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EXAMINER
QIN, YIXING

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

PTOL-90A (Rev. 04/07)

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>07 July 2003</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-24</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-24</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on <u>07 July 2003</u> is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/7/03, 9/1/05</u>.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

I.   Claims 1-24 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nomura

(U.S. PG Pub. No. 2002/0059318) in view of Sugiyama (U.S. Patent No. 6,965,449).

Regarding claims 1 and 22, Nomura discloses a method of restricting execution

of user requests for printing data, comprising:

defining a set of one or more restricted user requests, such restricted user

requests being restricted according to characteristics associated with such restricted

user requests; (Fig. 3)

receiving a user request having a characteristic; (Fig. 10)

determining whether the received user request is included in the set of one or

more restricted user requests based on the characteristic of the received user request;

(P[0018] and Fig. 10) and

Nomura does not explicitly disclose "receiving an authorization indicator before

printing data associated with the received user request when the received user request

is included in the set of one or more restricted user requests."

However, in Figs. 7-9, Nomura shows that various messages can be indicated, just got an authorization message. The secondary reference, Sugiyama discloses in column 3, lines 30-43 and Fig. 3, a typical authorization indicator that shows a login/password screen.

Nomura and Sugiyama are combinable because both are in the art of printing information.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have used a password authentication system.

The motivation would have been to allow an user to identify him/herself to gain access to print restricted data.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Nomura and Sugiyama to obtain the invention as specified.

Regarding claim 2, Nomura discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the characteristic of the received user request relates to a selected printing mode for printing the data, the selected printing mode specifying at least one of printing colorant, printing resolution, printing speed, print media source, type of print media, output sorting, output binding, and surface coating disposed on output. (Fig. 3)

Regarding claim 3, Nomura discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the received user request defines an aspect of a print job, and wherein printing data includes sending the print job to a printing device. (Fig. 2)

Regarding claim 4, Nomura discloses the method of claim 3, wherein the user

request is received from a person; and wherein defining includes receiving input

specifying the set of one or more restricted user requests from an administrator of the

printing device, the administrator being different than the person. (P[0079])

Regarding claim 5, Nomura discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the

characteristic is a numerical characteristic, and wherein at least one of the one or more

restricted user requests defines a threshold value for the numerical characteristic,

determining being based on a comparison of the numerical characteristic and the

threshold value. (Fig. 3, Fig. 10)

Regarding claims 6 and 24, Nomura discloses the method of claim 5, wherein the

numerical characteristic relates to printed output produced by executing the received

user request, and wherein the numerical characteristic is at least one of size of printed

output, amount of print media included in the printed output, amount of colorant

consumed to produce the printed output, duration of printing to produce the printed

output, and amount of power consumed in producing the printed output. (Fig. 3, Fig. 10

– shows color data)

Regarding claim 7, Nomura discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the

authorization indicator is at least one of a password, a code, a string of characters, and

a private key, and wherein receiving the authorization indicator includes requesting the

authorization indicator after receiving the user request when the received user request

is included in the set of one or more restricted user requests. (Again, the secondary

reference, Sugiyama, shows in column 3, lines 30-43 and Fig. 3 a typical login screen.)

Regarding claim 8, Nomura discloses the method of claim 1, which further

comprises suggesting an alternative, unrestricted characteristic upon determining that

the received user request is included in the set of one or more restricted user requests.

(P[0079] – P[0082])

Regarding claim 9, Nomura discloses a method of restricting execution of user

requests for printing data, comprising:

defining a set of one or more restricted user requests according to printing

modes and numerical characteristics associated with such restricted user requests;

(Fig. 3)

receiving a user request selecting a printing mode and having a numerical

characteristic; (Figs. 6-10)

determining whether the received user request is included in the set of restricted

user requests based on the printing mode selected and the numerical characteristic of

the received user request; (Fig. 10) and

receiving an authorization indicator before printing data associated with the

received user request when the received user request is included in the set of one or

more restricted user requests. (Again, the secondary reference, Sugiyama, shows in column 3, lines 30-43 and Fig. 3 a typical login screen)

Regarding claim 10, Nomura discloses the method of claim 9, which further comprises suggesting an alternative, printing mode upon determining that the received user request is included in the set of one or more restricted user requests. (P[0079] – P[0082])

Regarding claim 11, Nomura discloses the method of claim 9, wherein the printing modes associated with the set of restricted user requests include multi-colorant printing. (Fig. 3)

Regarding claim 12, Nomura discloses the method of claim 9, wherein the numerical characteristics associated with the set of restricted user requests include sizes of output. (P[0106])

Regarding claims 13 and 22, Nomura discloses the method of claim 9, wherein at least one of the one or more restricted user requests defines a threshold value for the numerical characteristic, and wherein determining is based on a comparison of the numerical characteristic of the received user request to the threshold value. (Fig. 10 and P[0018])

Regarding claim 14, Nomura discloses the method of claim 9, wherein the numerical characteristic of the received user request relates to an amount of a consumable expected to be consumed by printing the data associated with such received user request. (Fig. 10 shows that a job was restricted based upon color properties)

Regarding claim 15, Nomura discloses the method of claim 9, wherein defining includes receiving input that places a greater restriction on multi-colorant printing than on single-colorant printing. (Fig. 3)

Regarding claim 16, Nomura discloses the method of claim 15, wherein the input restricts any received user request that specifies printed output having a size over a specified page limit. (P[0106])

Regarding claim 17, Nomura discloses a method of restricting execution of user requests for printing data, comprising:

defining a selective restriction on multi-colorant printing relative to single-colorant printing, the selective restriction including a page limit for multi-colorant printing; (Fig. 3, P[0106])

receiving a user request specifying single-colorant or multi-colorant printing and defining a number of pages to be printed; (Fig. 10)

determining whether the received user request is included in the selective

restriction based on the number of pages to be printed and the single-colorant or multi-

colorant printing specified; (P[0018], Fig. 3, 10) and

receiving an authorization indicator before printing data associated with the

received user request when the received user request is included in the selective

restriction. (Again, the secondary reference, Sugiyama, shows in column 3, lines 30-43

and Fig. 3 a typical login screen)

Regarding claim 18, Nomura discloses the method of claim 17, wherein the

authorization indicator is at least one of a password, a code, a string of characters, and

a private key. (Again, the secondary reference, Sugiyama, shows in column 3, lines 30-

43 and Fig. 3 a typical login screen)

Regarding claim 19, Nomura discloses the method of claim 17, wherein the

received user request is sent by a person, and wherein receiving the authorization

indicator includes requesting the authorization indicator from the person after receiving

the user request. (Fig. 12)

Regarding claim 20, Nomura discloses a system for controlling execution of user

requests for printing data, comprising:

a printing device configured to print data associated with user requests; (Fig. 2)

and

a controller coupled with the printing device (Fig. 2, item 7) and including a set of

restricted user requests according to characteristics associated with such restricted user

requests (Fig. 10), the controller having a received user request that has a

characteristic, the controller being configured to determine if the received user request

is included in the set of restricted user requests based on the characteristic of such

received user request, (P[0018] and Fig. 10) and also configured to receive an

authorization indicator before allowing the printing device to print data associated with

the received user request when the received user request is included in the set of

restricted user requests. (Again, the secondary reference, Sugiyama, shows in column

3, lines 30-43 and Fig. 3 a typical login screen)

Regarding claim 21, Nomura discloses the system of claim 20, the controller

being included in a separate device that is connected to the printing device. P([0096])

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Yixing Qin whose telephone number is (571)272-7381.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Twyler Lamb can be reached on (571)272-7406. The fax phone number for

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

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Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

YQ

TWYLER LAMB
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER